UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/487,720	01/19/2000	Kenji Aiyama	862.3203	3493

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EXAMINER
PHAM, THIERRY L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2624	

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/487,720	AIYAMA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thierry L Pham	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>30 November 2004</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.　　2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-31* is/are pending in the application.

　　4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-31* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

　　Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

　　Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

　　a)☐ All　b)☐ Some *　c)☐ None of:

　　　1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

　　　2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

　　　3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

　　* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: an Amendment filed on 10/5/04.

- Supplement amendment filed on 11/30/04 have been received and acknowledged.

- Claims 1-31 are pending in application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness

rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (U.S. 6628413),

and in view of Sasaki et al (U.S. 6351317).

Regarding claim 1, Lee discloses an image forming apparatus (java printer 110

comprising printer server 102 and communication link 106, fig. 2, col. 3, lines 52-67) which is

connected to network (network, fig. 2) and forms (printing via a java printer, fig. 2) an image on

the basis image data acquired from the network, comprising:

- input means (printer server including a input device, i.e., keyboard, col. 3, lines 25-35) for

inputting information that pertains to image data; **NOTE: printer server 102, printer 100, and**

communication link 104 is incorporated into a single printer unit, JAVA PRINTER 110.

- submission means (Java printer 110 includes a browser interface for entering URL addresses

and transmitting and/or retrieving URL requests from and/or to Web server, figs. 2-6, col. 3,

lines 52-67 and col. 5, lines 8-40) for submitting an image request to the network on the basis the

information input by said input means;

- storage means (printer server including storage device for storing image/document data, i.e.,

hard disk, col. 3, lines 25-37 and col. 5, lines 8-40) for storing image data sent in response to the

image request submitted by said submission means;

• image forming means (printer, fig. 2, col. 6, lines 22-42) for forming an image on the basis of the image data processed by said image processing means.

Lee teaches laser printer 100, printer server 102 and communication link 106 can be incorporated into a single network printer, which is a JAVA printer 110 as shown in fig. 2, col. 3, lines 52-55 and inherently JAVA printer 100 includes an image processing means (i.e. printer server 102), but Lee fails to explicitly disclose parameter setting means for setting color-process parameters corresponding to a type of image data stored in said storage means and an image processing means for controlling to execute an image process corresponding to a type of image.

Sasaki, in the same field of endeavor for printing images data downloaded from the Internet, teaches parameter setting means for setting color-process parameters corresponding to a type of image data stored in said storage means and an image processing means for controlling to execute an image process corresponding to a type of image (printer 202 of fig. 13 includes a printer controller 208 for determining and selecting a specified image processing method corresponding to the type of image data downloaded from the Internet, fig. 15, col. 15, lines 12-67, i.e., JPEG image data will be processed with different parameters as compared to TIF image data).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Lee as per teachings of Sasaki because of a following reason: (•) to provide and obtain a high output images by processing the retrieved images with correct/appropriate image processing methods/processes (Sasaki, col. 15, lines 13-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Lee with Sasaki to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Regarding claim 2, Sasaki further discloses the apparatus according submission means submits the to claim 1, wherein said image request using a URL (fig. 15, col. 14, lines 1-67 and col. 15, lines 1-67).

Regarding claim 3, Sasaki further discloses the apparatus according claim 1, further comprising a server which stores the image data and is connected to the network, and wherein

said submission means submits a including an address of the server (URL address, col. 15, lines 5-67).

Regarding claim 4, Sasaki further discloses the apparatus according to claim wherein said image processing means changes an image process for the image data on the basis of whether an image corresponding to the image data requires tone reproduction or resolution (resolution, fig. 16, col. 15, lines 1-67).

Regarding claim 5, Sasaki further discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means includes a control panel (control panel, fig. 3) provided to said image forming apparatus.

Regarding claim 6, Sasaki further discloses the apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said input means includes interface (CRT, fig. 2, col. 14, lines 1-67) means for inputting via the network a command input at a computer (keyboard of computer, fig. 2) connected to the network.

Regarding claims 7-8, Sasaki further discloses the apparatus according to claim wherein said image processing means determines a characteristic the image data on the basis of an extension included in file name of the image data (i.e. JPEG and GIF extension, col. 15, lines 13-67).

Regarding claim 9, Sasaki further discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image process includes at least some of a LOG Conversion Process, undercolor removal process, pulse-width modulation process, gamma conversion process, and binarization process (col. 15, lines 1-67, these image processing methods are known in the art and widely available, i.e., binarization process), and the color-process parameters specify parameters of those processes.

Regarding claims 10-18: Claims 10-18 are the method claims corresponding to the apparatus claims 1-9 (respectively). The method claims are inherent and included by the operation of the apparatus claims. Please see claims rejection basis/rationale as described in claims 1-9 above.

Regarding claim 19, Lee further disclose an image forming apparatus comprising:

● input means (inputs via browser, fig. 3) putting a data acquisition request (inputting URL address to acquire data from the Internet, fig. 3) for a server on a network;

● data acquisition means for accessing individual servers (JAVA printer 110 can accesses to plurality of different servers since it is connected to the Internet, fig. 2) on the network in parallel (different servers can be accessed by entering different URL address via "document ID" section, fig. 4 and/or using multiple browsers at the same time), in a case where a plurality of such data acquisition requests for the individual servers are inputted by said input means, and for acquiring respective data from the individual servers (accessing to different servers by inputting different URL addresses on the browser "document ID", fig. 3);

● image data generation means (Java Printer 110 includes a printer server for processing image data prior printing by the printer's engine, fig. 2, col. 3, lines 52-60) for generating image formation data on the basis of the data acquired by said data acquisition means;

● image forming means (Java printer 110 includes laser printer 100, fig. 1-2, col. 3, lines 52-60) for forming an image on the basis of the image formation data generated by said image data generation means; and

● control means (Java printer includes print server for controlling the "queue" manager as shown in fig. 5) for controlling said image data generation means to generate the image the image formation data in an order (i.e. "set priority" button as shown in fig. 5) in which said data acquisition means has acquired the respective acquired data from the individual servers, and said image forming means to form an image in an order of the generated image formation data.

Regarding claim 20, Sasaki further discloses the apparatus according to claim wherein when data on a server includes location information (URL address, cols. 15-16) which indicates locations where sub data as building components of the data are held (URL address specifying

location of the file directory, cols. 15-16), all sub data designated by the location information included in the data from the server are acquired by said data acquisition means, and generation of the image formation data by said image data generation means and image formation by said image forming means are started from data for which all data including the sub data have been acquired.

Regarding claim 21, Sasaki further discloses the apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising: timer means (col. 16, lines 7-47) for measuring time required until completion of acquisition of data from the server; setting means (col. 16, lines 7-47) for setting a wait time; and cancel means (col. 16, lines 1-67) for canceling data acquisition from the server when a value measured by said timer means exceeds a predetermined time.

Regarding claims 22-28, please see rejection rationale/basis as described in claims 19-21 above.

Claims 29-31 correspond to claims 1 and 19 except computer readable memory medium for storing program is claimed rather that printing system or data output apparatus. All computers have some type of computer readable memory medium (memory, fig. 2, Sasaki) for storing computer programs, hence claims 29-31 would be rejected using the same rationale as in claims 1 and 19.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 10/5/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

- Regarding claim 1, the applicants argued the cited prior arts of record (US 6628413 and US 6351317) fail to teach and/or suggest the newly added features: (1) parameter setting means for setting color-process parameters corresponding to a type of image data stored in said storage means; (2) an image processing means for controlling to execute an image process corresponding to the image data stored in said storage means using the color-process parameters set by said parameter setting means.

In response, the examiner acknowledges such limitations are not previously cited in claim 1.
However, Sasaki explicitly teaches a printer 202 (fig. 13) includes a printer controller 208 (fig.
14) for determining and analyzing the contents of image data downloaded from the Internet and
specified a specific image processing methods corresponding to the type of images data (i.e.
JPEG, TIFF and etc, fig. 15, col. 15, lines 44-65). According to the original filed specification,
the applicants proposed a method for controlling a printing process corresponding to the type of
image data (i.e. JPEG, TIFF, and etc) and such methods are also taught by Sasaki (col. 15, lines
42-65). In addition, Sasaki also teaches a printer includes a control panel 24 as shown in fig. 3
for inputting various printing's parameters such as color selection and such control panels are
widely known and available in the art, please see US 6204867 and US 5909602 for an
illustration of such control panels.

• Regarding claims 19 and 22, the applicants argued the cited prior arts of record (US 6628413
and US 6351317) fail to teach and/or suggest the newly added features: (1) a case in which
plurality of data acquisition requests for individual servers are inputted, the individual servers are
accessed in parallel, and respective data are acquired from the individual servers.
In response, the examiner acknowledges such limitations are not previously cited in claims 19
and 22. In the remarks filed on 10/5/04, pages 19-20, **the applicants acknowledged that Lee
teaches a Java printer that can open and print a document specified by an appropriate
URLs and that printer is configurable using a browser interface.** As shown in figs. 3-6, Lee
teaches Java printer includes a browser interface that allows operators/users to input URL
addresses to access to the Internet to download web contents. Since the Java printer is connected
to the Internet, it can be accessed to multiple servers to download the web contents (i.e. image
data and document data) as shown in fig. 4. One of ordinary skill in the art would open multiple
browser interfaces to access to different servers (parallel) by entering different URLs on the
"document ID" section on each of the opened browser interfaces. By doing so, it would allow
users/operators to download different web contents from different servers at the same time to
reduce/shorten the wait time.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

● (1) U.S. 6362894 to Shima, discloses a printing system for directly accessing and retrieving HTML/URL/Webpages from the web server without having to use the computer.

● U.S. 5731823 to Miller et al, discloses methods (i.e. halftoning, undercolor removal and etc) for processing images based upon image's characteristics.

● U.S. 5909602 to Nakai, teaches an image forming apparatus including a control panel for controlling variety of different tasks (i.e. color selection, haltoning and etc).

● U.S. 6204867 to Fujimoto, teaches an image forming apparatus including a control panel for controlling variety of different tasks (i.e. selecting a print mode for performing monochrome/color image data).

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.
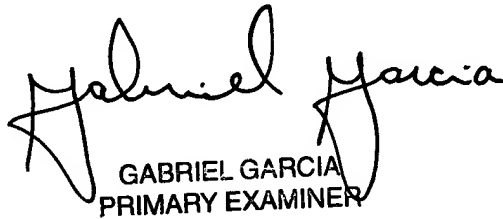
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L Pham whose telephone number is (703) 305-1897. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K Moore can be reached on (703)308-7452. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thierry L. Pham

GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER